A General EPISTLE

Of Universal Love and Good Will

To all the Families of the Earth, who are seeking the Lord, and enquiring after the Knowledge of him, whom to know is Eternal Life, whether they be in Forms of Worship, or without, or suppose they have got above all Forms, *&c.*

WITH DIRECTIONS

How, and by what means, the Saving Knowledge of God is again Restored, and where he may be found; and how, from the Least to the Greatest, all may attain to the Knowledge of Him, according to his Promise, by the Apostle.

Hebrews VIII. 8, 9, 10, 11.

Behold the days come (saith the Lord) when I will make a New Covenant with the House of Israel, *and with the House of* Judah.

Not according to the Covenant that I made with their Fathers, in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the Land of Egypt; because they continued not in my Covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

For this is the Covenant that I will make with the House of Israel *after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my Laws into their Mind, and write them in their Hearts: And I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a People.*

And they shall not teach every Man his Neighbour, and every Man his Brother, saying, Know the Lord: For all shall know me from the least to the greatest, &c.

THis is the Gospel Covenant, where the Law is put in the Mind, and writ in the Heart, by the Finger of God (here the outward Priests Lips are not to keep the Peoples knowledge, as in the time of the Law, and First Covenant, but universal Know-

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ledge promiſed, by the *Lip of Truth*, to the leaſt as well as the greateſt) which, who receiveth and embraceth in our day, will no longer *ſpend* their *Money*, nor their *Labour*, for that which will not profit them, *Iſa.* 55. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. being *ever learning, and never able to come to the Knowledge of the Truth*, 2 Tim. 3. to verſe 7.

But it hath been the great Unhappineſs of all Mankind in the Fall, thereby to loſe the Knowledge of God. And as the *Serpent* prevailed with *Eve*, to break Covenant with God, and from her to *Adam*, whereby they were drove from the Preſence of God, which had been a Fountain of Life to them: Even ſo he hath prevailed with the Generality of Mankind, to ſlight and diſregard that which God hath ordained to Reſtore them again to the true and ſaving Knowledge of the true and living God: Though they are ſeeking him in divers Forms and Manners of Worſhip, and that with Zeal too; yet being Ignorant of that, in and by which the Lord was always known and manifeſted: They Pray in vain, Preach in vain, and ſeek the Face of God in vain.

For their ſakes, chiefly, am I drawn forth, to diſcover openly what the Lord hath made known to me in ſecret, who have been upon the *barren Mountains, ſeeking the Living among the Dead*, as well as others.

The firſt Promiſe that was made to Mankind (of Reſtoration out of this miſerable fallen State, *Gen.* 3. 15.) was in and by that Promiſed Seed, which was to bruiſe the *Serpent*'s Head; of which Seed all the righteous Generations, from *Adam*, did partake; as *Abel*, *Enoch*, *Noah*, *Abraham*, *Iſaac*, *Jacob*, and all the *Patriarchs* and *Prophets*.

And to *Abraham* in his Seed was the Promiſe made to all the Families of the Earth, *Gen.* 12. 3. of *Bleſſing* and *Reſtoration*, out of the *Curſe*, which came on Man in the Fall. And this *Seed* and *Spirit* of *Life* was the principal Inſtructer and Leader of all the holy Men of God, in and before the Firſt Covenant, in all the *Statutes* and *Judgments* which the Lord ſet before them, which they were to do and Live. By the opening of this *Spirit*

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of *Life* and *Prophecy*, *Moſes* propheſied of Chriſt, *Deut.* 18. 15, 16, 17, 18. And *Abraham* offered his Son, *Gen.* 22. This inſtructed the *Prophets* in all their Propheſies, and led *Iſrael*, who obeyed it, through the Wilderneſs, *Nehem.* 9. 19, 20. and was to them as a *Pillar of a Cloud by Day, and a Pillar of Fire by Night*, Numb. 14. 14.

And by this *Daniel* expounded to King *Belſhazzar* the Hand-writing that was againſt him, *Dan.* 5. 11. And the holy Prophets, unto *Malachi*, which had Knowledge of the Coming of Chriſt, it was by this: Of this *Seed* came all the *Branches of Righteouſneſs* that ever grew up in any Generations of the World: And unto this Seed (*Chriſt*, his *Light* and *Spirit* of *Life*) muſt all Nations of the World come, that the Head of the Serpent may be bruiſed, and ſubdued with it, in every Male and Female, if ever they be Reſtored to Life in Chriſt again, and to the ſaving Knowledge of God; whoſe Kingdom is compared to the leaſt of all *Seeds*, in its firſt appearance; and therefore was likened to a *Grain of Muſtard Seed*, Mat. 13. 31. But if the Seed of the Kingdom grow up in Male and Female, it will become the greateſt, and its Branches will ſpread, and its Fruit will be Righteouſneſs; the effect of which is Peace and aſſurance for ever.

And now to you all who are ſcattered upon the barren Mountains of empty Profeſſion, and are yet Strangers to this *Seed* and *Spirit* of *Life*: Know of a Truth, that while ye remain ſuch, you are *without God in the World*, feeding upon the empty Huſks among them, who (like Swine) wallow in the Mire of Uncleanneſs, and Pollutions of the World.

Ariſe, ariſe, and ſhake off your Night Garments, for they will no longer Cover your Nakedneſs, and lift up your Eyes, and behold the ariſing of the Morning Star of Righteouſneſs in your *Hearts*, which will lead you to the Son of the Father's Love, whom he hath now raiſed in order to Rule and Reign in the *Hearts* of the Children of Men, till he hath ſubdued all his Enemies, that he alone may have the Government, whoſe Right it is: And all who will not that he ſhould thus Reign are his Enemies; he will ſlay them, let their Profeſſion,

and Confeſſion of him [in words] be what it will: For he is ariſing to ſearch his *Jeruſalem* with Candles, and the flying Roul of his Wrath is entring into the Houſe of the Unclean, and him that worketh Iniquity, and ſhall conſume it with the Stones and Timber thereof.

Therefore ſweep Iniquity and Uncleanneſs out of your Houſes, if you intend they ſhall be preſerved; for your greateſt Enemies are them within (in your own Hearts) and while they remain there, they will Corrupt all your Sacrifices, as *David* ſaid, *If I regard Iniquity in my Heart, the Lord will not hear my Prayer*, Pſalm 66. 18. And your loſt piece of Money in your own Houſes, *Luke* 15. 8. (*i. e.* your own Hearts) you will not find, till ye ſweep them by the Beſom of God's Power, and purge out the old Leaven of Uncleanneſs there.

Oh therefore, Come home, come home, and look into the dark Corners of your Hearts by the Candle of God's Word, and there you will find the Body of Sin and Death, and the Root of Bitterneſs and Enmity to God, by the appearance of his Beloved Son. Oh! Let the Ax of God's Power be laid to this Root; for the Day of the Everlaſting Goſpel is dawned, and its Power known, which (as received, owned and obeyed) ſhall Root up the Body of Sin, Death and Darkneſs, and thereby ſhall bring Life and Immortality to Light, which the falſe Goſpel could not, nor can never do.

The great Maſter of the Vineyard is now come to look for Fruits, and every Plant and Graft in his Vineyard, that bringeth not forth good Fruit, he will hew down and caſt into the Fire: For he is Juſt, as well as Merciful, and will no longer be mocked with an empty Shew of Holineſs, and vain Profeſſion of Righteouſneſs, while your Fruits gives your Profeſſion the Lye: His Kingdom ſtands in Righteouſneſs, and without it, and the Works of it brought forth in Life and Converſation, no Man ſhall ſee God to his Eternal Comfort, nor receive an Inheritance among them who are ſanctified, but as they are ſanctified thorough the Obedience of Faith, and Renewing of the Holy Ghoſt.

You have been long Coveting the Husk, and no Man would give it you, as the poor Prodigal, *Luke* 15. 16. Return now to your Father's Houſe, the *Light in which God dwells*, 1 Tim. 6. 16. that he may meet you, and prepare a Feaſt of fat things for you, for his love is the ſame, and his Rowling Bowels is not leſſened to all his Prodigal Children, who with unfeigned Repentance return to his Houſe; the *Light* is his Houſe for ever: And all Nations, Kindreds and Tongues muſt come to this Houſe, where his Honour remains and dwells; if ever they Eat of his Dainties, and of the Fulneſs and Fatneſs of his Tabernacle; *Jacob* dwelt in this Houſe, and it was as a *Fire*; and alſo *Joſeph*, and it was as a *Flame*, and *Eſau* who inhabited *Mount Seir*, his Houſe was as *Stubble*, and no remains thereof was, nor is to be left by the Word of the Lord, *Obediah*, 18.

And the Church is coming out of the Wilderneſs (where *Eſau* dwells) leaning on the breſt of her beloved, who is embracing her in the Arms of Divine Love, leading her thro' many Tribulations, in which he will purifie her as Gold, ſeven times tried in the Fire.

And now you who are ſeeking the Lord in what way of outward Worſhip ſoever, behold and receive the *Lamp of Righteouſneſs*, which God hath lighted in you, and conſider the Parable, *Luke* 15. and return home and purge out the uncleaneſs of your own Houſes (*i. e.*) your Hearts (by the Right Hand of God's Power, which he is daily ſtretching out to you) of all the Defilements and Corruptions, which the Enemy of your Souls hath filled them withal, then (and not till then) ſhall ye find him to be the Redeemer of your Souls, the Knowledge of whom hath been loſt in your own Houſes, and covered out of your Sight under the Corruptions of your own Hearts; and the Enemy of your eternal Peace hath led you out to ſeek him, among the *Lo Here*'s and *Lo There*'s, without, where he was never found: And upon this Account, Chriſt ſaid, *Luke* 13. 14. *Many ſhall ſeek to enter in and ſhall not be able.*

For

For, whoſoever ſeeks and ſtrives to enter in, and not by *Chriſt* the Door, who is the true Light, *that lighteth every Man that cometh into the World*, by which the Door is ſeen, and the Entrance known into Life Eternal, is a Thief and a Robber: For the Corruption within muſt be caſt out, and the ſtrong Man armed (who hath long kept the Heart) diſpoſſed, before ever Man can enter the Kingdom of Righteouſneſs, or Man and Woman be *Born* again of the *Incorruptible Seed*, by the *Word of God*, which liveth and abideth for ever.

This *Birth* cometh not by the Will of Man, nor in the Will of the Fleſh, but by the Will of God, and delighteth in his Law, Statutes and Judgments, crying *Abba Father*, and ſeeks not his Face in vain, the Prayer of this *Seed* and *Birth* he heareth and anſwereth; this ſeeketh and findeth, becauſe Innocency is its Garment, and Righteouſneſs its Breaſt-Plate.

This *Birth*, in whomſoever it appeareth, is hated of the World, and ſet at naught by the hired *Builders* thereof, whoſe greateſt Gain is *their Godlineſs*, and thorough Covetouſneſs, with feigned words, have they made Merchandize of Thouſands, whoſe Reward will be according to their Works.

O! Ariſe, ariſe, and come away, ye ſeeking and travelling Ones, in what Form, or under what Name ſo ever: The great Maſter of the Feaſt is Inviting you to Eat at his Table, make no Excuſes of Oxen or Farmes, Wives or Children, that you be not Rejected, and them who are in the High-Ways and Hedges compelled and received: For many are Called and Invited, but few Choſen and Received, becauſe they anſwer not his Call, nor regard his Invitation.

Therefore Gird up the Loyns of your Minds, and caſt off the Unfruitful Works of Darkneſs, and put on the Armour of Light; for it is offered you: Even the Spiritual Sword, by which you may overcome your Soul's Enemy, *i. e.* the World, the Fleſh, and the Devil; and this *Word*, or *Sword of the Spirit*, is nigh to every one of you, even *in your Hearts*, Rom. 10. 8. This *Ingrafted Word* is able to ſave your Souls, if you Hear, Receive and Obey it, your Rock will be ſure in all Storms, and your Foun-

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dation unmoveable, and you ſhall know the Truth, and it ſhall make you free, from that Bondage of Corruption which the whole Creation groans under: For a Deliverer is come, and now tender'd to all Mankind, that whoſoever will Receive, Follow and Obey him, ſhall not abide in *Egypt*'s Darkneſs, nor Houſe of Bondage, but ſhall receive the Light of Life.

Oh! Seek the Lord in the Light of his Beloved Son, while he is near; for *he is not far from every one of you*, who in Sincerity are ſeeking him: And that, in this your Day of Viſitation, you may know the things that belong to your Everlaſting Peace, is the true Deſire and Breathing of

Your True Friend,

Who ſeeks not Yours, but You,

Ambroſe Rigge.

Reigate, *the* 8*th day of the* 8*th Month*, 1698.

FINIS.